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THE YOUNG
INDIANA JONES
CHRONICLES
VERDUN
BY DAN BARRY & GRAY MORROW

THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES™

VERDUN

SEPTEMBER 1916

Script and Artwork by **Dan Barry**

Inks by **Gray Morrow**

Letters by **Gail Beckett**

Colors by **Gregory Wright**

Edited by **Barbara Kesel**

Adapted from the teleplay by Jonathan Hensleigh

Story by George Lucas

This is a work of fiction. While young Indiana Jones is portrayed as taking part in historical events and meeting real figures from history, many of the characters in the book as well as the situations and scenes described are inventions of the author's imagination. In addition, where real historical figures and events are described, the author has, in some cases, altered the chronology and historical facts for dramatic effect.

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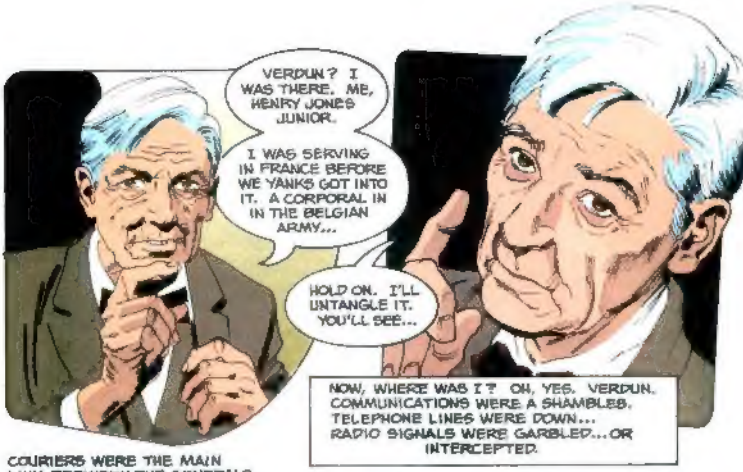
IT IS A QUESTION OF HONOR. FORT DOUAUMONT MUST BE CAPTURED, WHATEVER THE COST!
General ROBERT NIVELLE
Commander, 2nd Army
HE HAD SOME REGARD FOR THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER. HE WASN'T A BUTCHER.
A FRENCH POILU
Speaking of Petain
ADVANCE AT ALL COSTS... REGARDLESS OF THE ENEMY'S FORTIFICATIONS... WE FIGHT THE FRENCH WAY ...OUT IN THE OPEN.
General CHARLES MANGIN
Senior Staff
WHEN I SAY ATTACK, I WANT AN ATTACK! THE POLITICIANS, THE NEWSPAPERS DEMAND IT!
I WANT THE SAFE RETURN OF MY MEN. AN END TO THIS MADNESS.
General PHILLIPE PETAIN
Former Commander, 2nd Army
(Kicked upstairs)
General "PAPA" JOFFRE
French Commander-in-Chief

VERDUN 916


VERDUN? I WAS THERE. ME, HENRY JONES JUNIOR.
I WAS SERVING IN FRANCE BEFORE WE YANKS GOT INTO IT. A CORPORAL IN IN THE BELGIAN ARMY...
HOLD ON. I'LL UNTANGLE IT. YOU'LL SEE...
NOW, WHERE WAS I? OH, YES. VERDUN. COMMUNICATIONS WERE A SHAMBLES. TELEPHONE LINES WERE DOWN... RADIO SIGNALS WERE GARBLED...OR INTERCEPTED.

COURIERS WERE THE MAIN LINK BETWEEN THE GENERALS IN THEIR ELEGANT CASTLES...

AND THE MEN AT THE FRONT.

I WAS A COURIER ON MY FIRST MISSION.

IF THOSE IDIOTS WOULD ONLY COME AND SEE THIS RAT HOLE...
DISREGARD THAT, CORPORAL. WHO ARE YOU?
CORPORAL HENRI DEFENSE.* DIDN'T HEAR A THING, MAJOR!
* IT WAS ME, INDIANA JONES, ALL RIGHT. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
NEW ORDERS, SIR. FROM 2ND ARMY COMMAND!
NO. OH, NO!
VUROOM THOOM
IS THIS A JOKE?!
YES, AND A PRETTY GRIM ONE!
COME ON, COME ON! DAMN IT! ANSWER!
CORPORAL, ARE YOU A FAST RUNNER?
YES, SIR!
THOSE GENIUSES IN COMMAND WANT AN ATTACK ON FORT DOUAUMONT. AND THEY WANT IT A FEW MINUTES FROM NOW.
DOUAUMONT?! THE MOST IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS IN ALL OF FRANCE?
THOOM
THOOM
YES, NOW IN GERMAN HANDS...
THE LINE TO THE FRONT IS DOWN!
THOOM THOOM VAROOM VURROOM
...THANKS TO JOFFRE HIMSELF, WHO STRIPPED IT OF GUNS AND MEN. GENERAL JOFFRE, WHO NOW ORDERS MY MEN TO...
IGNORE THAT, CORPORAL.
I DIDN'T HEAR A THING, SIR.
THOSE ARE FRENCH GUNS. THE ATTACK MUST BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, WHILE THOSE GUNS ARE GIVING MY MEN SUPPORT. OTHERWISE, THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED!
VURROOM THOOM THOOM VAROOM

YOU UNDERSTAND?
Y-YESSIR!
GOOD! GET THESE ORDERS TO MAJOR GASTON! EVER BEEN IN THE TRENCHES, CORPORAL?
COL. PRAGE
YES, SIR. IN FLANDERS!
WELL, THIS IS VERDUN!
GOOD LUCK!
HURRY, CORPORAL! YOU'VE ONLY A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE ARTILLERY STOPS!
A MESSAGE RUNNER!
THEY'VE ORDERED ANOTHER ATTACK!

OOPF... SORRY! WHERE'S MAJOR GASTON?
RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
SIR—FROM COLONEL BARC.
DAMNED! THAT'S WHAT THE BARRAGE IS ABOUT! MOTHER MARY! NOT AGAIN!
I HOPE I'M NOT TOO L...
TWEEE
TWEE
PREPARE FOR AN ATTACK ON DOUAUMONT!
WHA-AT?
RIGHT NOW?!
ARE THEY MAD?
ATTACK POSITIONS!
FIX BAYONETS!
HEY, BOY! YOU'RE A MESSENGER! TAKE THIS!
NICOLE, MY WIFE. HER ADDRESS IS THERE. TAKE IT TO HER.

THAT WON'T DO YOU NO GOOD! IF HE WANTS YOU, HE'LL TAKE YOU.
WHO...? WHO WILL?
THE REAPER. MONSIEUR DEATH!
TWEEE!!!
THOOMBRAKATATATATPTUNGPING

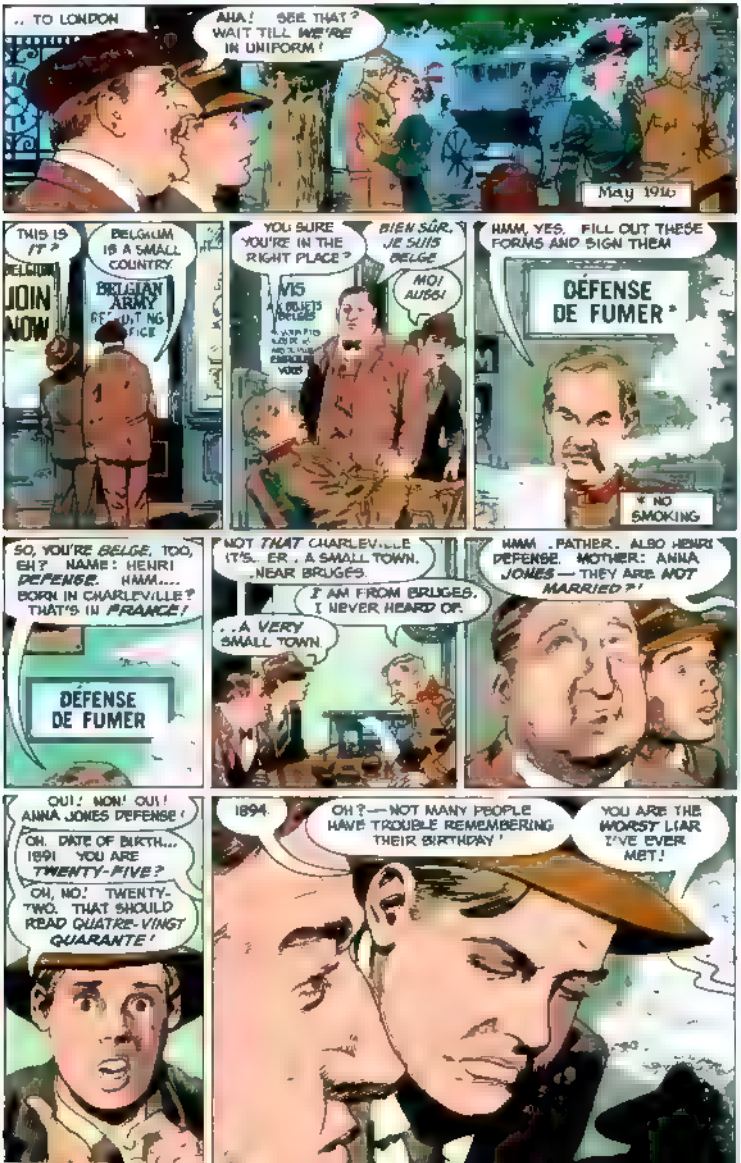
THUD
OOO'MIGOD!
GROAN
OWWWOooH!
GOD! HELP ME!
EEEE-YAHH... OH
A CASUALTY REPORT! TAKE THIS BACK WITH YOU, CORPORAL!
H-HOW MANY, SIR?
TOO MANY!
SIX HUNDRED DEAD! THE COUNT WILL GO HIGHER.
HELP ME! OH, GOD! HELP ME...
WELCOME TO VERDUN, CORPORAL!

BRATA TATATATATAT
AT TATATA
CORPORAL! COME BACK HERE!
YOU CAN'T HELP!
PTHUNK
THUNK
ZAP
PLUNK
DAMNED! WHAT A WASTE!..
FTOOM
...A SENSELESS WASTE!
2ND ARMY HEADQUARTERS, SOUILLY
MAJOR MARAT HAD ASSIGNED ME THE MISSION. I TURNED OVER THE CASUALTY LIST.
AS I HEARD IT, GENERAL NIVELLE WAS BUSY TELLING JOKES WHEN THE REPORT ARRIVED.
HMM. GET DOWNSTAIRS AND CLEAN UP FOR SUPPER. WELL DONE, CORPORAL.
NIVELLE—WHO HAD ORDERED THE BLOODY AND USELESS ATTACK.

N VELLE, WHO ONLY HOURS EARLIER WAS CELEBRATING...
TO THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE 2ND ARMY. LONG OVERDUE, ROBERT!
...ALONG WITH HIS YES-MAN, GENERAL MANGIN.
HE WAS REPLACING PÉTAIN, WHO WAS PROMOTED TO SECTOR COMMANDER
ATTACK FORT DOUAUMONT? TO WHAT PURPOSE?
PURPOSE?
THE MEN WILL BE RUSHING MACHINE GUNS AND ARTILLERY FIRE — UPHILL!
I SHOULD HOPE YOU HAVE A PURPOSE IN MIND.
SIRS. GENERAL JOFFRE
AT EASE, GENTLEMEN. I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME. I'M EXPECTED AT THE BALLET
POLITICIANS, YOU UNDERSTAND.
NOW, GENERAL, I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE AN OPERATION IN MIND...?
I DO. AN IMMEDIATE ATTACK... HERE!
AN ATTACK ON DOUAUMONT? EXCELLENT. I WILL AWAIT THE RESULTS.
WHAT?!
FORT DOUAUMONT
VERDUN 5 KM.
YOU CAN'T AUTHORIZE THIS!
I JUST DID!
JUST LIKE THAT?! WHAT IS THE ENEMY STRENGTH? HOW MANY GUNS? HOW MANY MEN? IT IS EASY TO ORDER AN ATTACK FROM THE COMFORT OF THIS ROOM...

...TO CARRY IT OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER
SUCH AN ATTACK MUST BE PLANNED TO THE LAST DETAIL.
I EXPECT YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS, GENERAL JOFFRE!
THANK YOU, GENERAL.
YOU WERE CHOSEN TO REPLACE PETAIN BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT AFRAID TO ATTACK!
DON'T LET ME DOWN, ROBERT
ATTACK AT ALL COSTS!
JOFFRE WAS AT THE BALLET LATER THAT EVENING. WHEN NIVELLE READ THE CASUALTY REPORT
HMM ONLY SIX HUNDRED
MUST HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS. HOW MUCH GROUND DID WE GAIN?
NONE, SIR
WHAT'S THAT, MAJOR? I THOUGHT YOU SAID "NONE"
I DID. THE ATTACK FAILED.
COLONEL BARC AGAIN! HAVE BARC IN MY OFFICE AT SIX A.M.! THAT IS ALL, MAJOR!
I AM NOT GOING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FAILURE OF MY SUBORDINATES!

THE DOWNSTAIRS SCULLERY WAS WARM, DRY, SAFE. THE SOUP WAS HOT, FRESH. SO WAS THE BREAD.
THE OTHER COURIERS — ALEX, CLAUDE ROCCO — WERE A GOOD LOT. LOUD, FUN-LOVING...
AHH, YOU HAVE BEEN TO THE FRONT YOUNG FELLA! NOT SO NICE, EH?
YES.
WE ALL OF US HERE FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY! BUT THEN — WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER FOR THE TRENCHES?
THEY DIE LIKE FLIES OUT THERE WHILE WE WARM OUR BUNS IN A COZY CASTLE. THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE THINKING, NO?
IT'S SUCH AN UGLY WAR!
HOW'D A YOUNG YANK LIKE YOU GET INTO IT? AND IN A BELGIAN UNIFORM?
OH, JUST ONE THING LEADING TO ANOTHER. IT STARTED WITH MY FRIEND REMY. I MET HIM BACK IN MARCH, IN MEXICO. WE WERE BOTH CAUGHT UP IN VILLA'S REVOLUTION.
BUT REMY'S WAR WAS HERE IN EUROPE. HE DECIDED TO ENLIST. I CAME WITH HIM.


.. TO LONDON
AHA! SEE THAT? WAIT TILL WE'RE IN UNIFORM!
May 1915
THIS IS IT?
BELGIUM IS A SMALL COUNTRY
BELGIAN ARMY
JOIN NOW
YOU SURE YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE?
BIEN SÛR. JE SUIS BELGE
MOI AUSSI
HMM, YES. FILL OUT THESE FORMS AND SIGN THEM
DÉFENSE DE FUMER *
* NO SMOKING
SO, YOU'RE BELGE, TOO, EH? NAME: HENRI DEFENSE. HMM.... BORN IN CHARLEVILLE? THAT'S IN FRANCE!
DÉFENSE DE FUMER
NOT THAT CHARLEVILLE IT'S.. ER.. A SMALL TOWN. NEAR BRUGES.
I AM FROM BRUGES. I NEVER HEARD OF.
..A VERY SMALL TOWN.
HMM. FATHER.. ALSO HENRI DEFENSE. MOTHER: ANNA JONES — THEY ARE NOT MARRIED?!
OUI! NON! OUI! ANNA JONES DEFENSE!
OH. DATE OF BIRTH... 1891 YOU ARE TWENTY-FIVE?
OH, NO! TWENTY-TWO. THAT SHOULD READ QUATRE-VINGT QUARANTE!
1894
OH?— NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING THEIR BIRTHDAY!
YOU ARE THE WORST LIAR I'VE EVER MET!

WELCOME TO THE BELGIAN ARMY, MONSIEUR "DEFENSE"
HA-HAA! ALL YOU HAD TO SAY WAS "I AM HENRY JONES. I WANT TO JOIN THE BELGIAN ARMY." THEY'LL TAKE ANYONE!
WE GOT OUR CALL-UP PAPERS SOON AFTER
..AND HERE YOU ARE A GOOD STORY—NOW TO BED
THE BUTCHERS UPSTAIRS CAN CALL AT ANY HOUR —TO SEND US OFF TO THE SLAUGHTER
EXCUSES, EXCUSES. IT WAS TOO HOT, TOO COLD. IT WAS FOGGY WE COULD NOT SEE IT WAS CLEAR, THE SUN WAS IN OUR EYES. EXCUSES!
EXCUSES FOR WHAT, GENERAL NIVELLE?
COWARDICE!
THOSE SIX HUNDRED MEN WHO DIED TODAY. THE HUNDREDS OF WOUNDED, WERE THEY COWARDS?!
IT IS EVERY SOLDIER'S DUTY TO DIE! A SOLDIER WHO IS AFRAID OF DEATH IS NOT WORTHY OF THIS LIFE!
BRILLIANT! I'LL BE SURE TO INSERT THAT PIECE OF WISDOM INTO THE NEW INFANTRYMAN'S MANUAL
AND GIVE YOU FULL CREDIT!
SIR—I DO NOT APPRECIATE YOUR TONE
NOR DO I! IT IS TOTALLY UNCALLED-FOR, GENERAL PÉTAIN.

SENSITIVE? SOLDIERS SHOULD BE MADE OF STERNER STUFF I'M SORRY IF I GAVE OFFENSE, GENTLEMEN! AU REVOIR.
HOLD ON...
...WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS? I'M VERY BUSY.
YES, I KNOW...
...WE'VE BEEN OVER THAT, MR. "PIRATE-OF-WALL-STREET"
THE TERM IS "ACQUISITION SPECIALIST"
DON'T INTERRUPT ME, YOUNG MAN!
YES, YOU'VE "ACQUIRED" THIS AIRLINE WE'RE ON. IT'S LOSING MONEY SO YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT PAY BY SELLING IT OFF — PLANE BY PLANE!
YES. SO..?
WITH NO REGARD FOR THE PEOPLE WORKING FOR YOU — THE PILOT, THAT CUTE STEWARDESS? WHAT ABOUT THEIR JOBS?
I'M NOT IN THE EMPLOYMENT BUSINESS. MY FIGURES..
FIGURES? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HUMAN LIVES! I SAID BEFORE YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE. NOW SIT BACK AND LISTEN! I HAVE A POINT TO MAKE.
I TOLD YOU HOW I ENLISTED WITH REMY? YES, YES. WELL, NOW YOU KNOW HOW I GOT THE PHONY NAME AND THE BELGIAN UNIFORM

REMY AND I HAD BEEN SPLIT UP INTO DIFFERENT OUTFITS, BUT I DID MEET HIM AGAIN AT A FRENCH MILITARY HOSPITAL IN VERDUN
AAAGH! OWW-OHH! TAKE IT OUT!
ORDERLIES QUICKLY!
STOP IT YOU'RE DELIRIOUS!
THEY DIDN'T GET IT OUT! OHHH...!
NO — I CAN FEEL IT THEY MUST OPERATE AGAIN! OH THE PAIN..!
RESTRAIN HIM TIE HIM DOWN!
MAKE THEM STOP— PLEASE!
HE'S A DANGER TO HIMSELF!
I'M A FRIEND. I CAN CALM HIM.
VERY WELL
HOW ARE YOU REMY?
COULD BE BETTER, MON AMI

I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU.
CIGARETTES?
THEY'RE GERMAN!

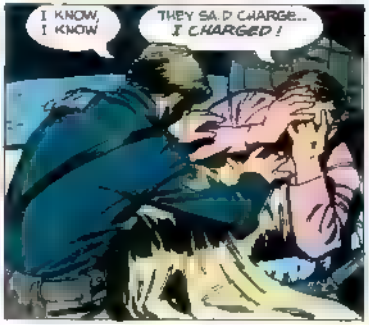
DAMNED BOCHES! THEY MAKE GOOD SMOKES. WANT ONE?
NO THANKS. — NOW WHAT WAS ALL THAT... ABOUT THE BULLET?

DID THE SURGEON REALLY LEAVE IT IN?
REMY?
REMY?
REMY!

NO. BUT I'M NOT GOING BACK TO THE TRENCHES. I'M... NOT.

REMY — LISTEN! YOU'VE GOT TO LET IT HEAL! IF YOU MAKE THE WOUND WORSE, THEY'LL FIND OUT.
THEY'LL KILL YOU!
KILL ME? WHO'LL KILL ME?

THEY'VE ISSUED ORDERS TO EXECUTE ANYONE WHO WOUNDS HIMSELF TO GET OUT OF THE TRENCHES
WOUND MYSELF? I DIDN'T WOUND MYSELF!


I KNOW, I KNOW
THEY SAID CHARGE... I CHARGED!

REMY, YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. — OKAY?
SNIFF. OKAY.
I HAVE TO GO. I'LL BE BACK LATER, OKAY?
OKAY.
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, CORPORAL.
WHEN'S HE GOING BACK?
TOMORROW.
TOMORROW? HE'S NOT READY
I KNOW.
THEY USED TO SAY A BOCHE PILOT COULD SPOT A COURIER...
LIKE A HAWK DOES A RABBIT!
GULP!
VRRRRURRUM
RRUM

VROOOOOOOMMM

BRATATAT
ABRATATAT
TATTATAT
BRATATAT
ATATATATAT
TAT
RRRR
RRRUM

HA! VERTIG! FINISHED!
Object in Free Gravity
I WAS WAITING TO PICK UP AN ORDER FOR ARTILLERY SHELLS WHEN I MET HIM... THE GUNNERY SERGEANT
♫ OH MY MARIE! MY BEAUTIFUL MARIE! ♫
YOU ARE SO BEE OO-T.PUL, CHERIE! ♫
AHH — ENJOYING YOUR RUBDOWN, EH?
I THINK I BLUSHED — LIKE I'D WALKED IN ON AN INTIMATE LOVE SCENE. BUT SGT DE MILLE WAS DELIGHTED. HE'D FOUND AN AUDIENCE TO SHARE HIS LOVE WITH!
SHE'S YOUR BASIC 105 M.L'METER. PRETTY L.TTLE PIECE O' DESTRUCTIVE MACHINERY
LITTLE?
ONLY THROWS A 35-POUND SHELL! NOT LIKE THIS BABY!
IT'S HUGE!
YOU CALL THAT HUGE?

HERE'S HUGE! THIS DARLING CAN REDUCE A BOCHE SOLDIER TO A PILE OF WIENER SCHNITZEL—LIKE THAT!
BUT IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO BIG BERTHA!
WHO'S BIG BERTHA?
NOT WHO. WHAT A KRUPP HOWITZER SHE'S GERMAN. THE MEANEST CANNON EVER MADE
TAKES OVER A HUNDRED MEN TO LOAD AND FIRE HER! FIRES A TWO-THOUSAND POUND SHELL.
TWO THOUSAND?
D-DO THEY HAVE ANY BIG BERTHAS HERE?
NOT RIGHT NOW— BUT THEY MIGHT SOME DAY AND THEN... CCRRRRRCKK!
HERE'S YOUR DISPATCH, CORPORAL.
SEE YOU AROUND SERGEANT.
SURE TH NG YOUNG FELLA
HI, ROCCO ALEX
WHEN I GOT BACK TO THE CHATEA...
OH EXCUSE ME SIR!
AS I WAS SAYING, WE HAVE A NEED FOR MEN WHO SPEAK GERMAN

I REPEAT, BELGIANS HAVE A REPUTATION FOR LANGUAGE SKILLS. DO ANY OF YOU SPEAK GERMAN?
WELL..?
UH..., I SPEAK GERMAN, SIR!
CORPORAL DEFENSE, ISN'T IT?
YES, SIR!
BE AT MY OFFICE IN TWO HOURS.
WHY'D YOU DO THAT, HENRI?
DO WHAT?
TELL HIM YOU SPEAK GERMAN
BECAUSE HE ASKED! WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? THEY JUST NEED AN INTERPRETER!
OH, SACRED MOTHER! DO YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN!!
DID I.... EVER!
OBWOHL ICH EIN KORPORAL DER BELGISCHEN ARMEE SEI FUEHLE ICH MICH SEHR GEEHRT DEN FRANZ ..
THAT'S FINE! CORPORAL, YOUR GERMAN IS INDEED EXCELLENT

YOU WEREN'T JUST BOASTING, CORPORAL.
IT'S NOBLE OF YOU TO VOLUNTEER THE FRENCH ARMY..
...INDEED, THE FRENCH NATION WILL BE INDEBTED TO YOU!
YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, CORPORAL?
I GUESS SO.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO, ANYWAY?
IT'S A HUNDRED AND FIFTY METERS ACROSS. STAY LOW AND, OF COURSE, DON'T BE SEEN.

FIND THE GERMAN COMMAND BUNKER. LISTEN FOR ANYTHING ABOUT TROOP MOVEMENTS OR ATTACKS.
Y-YESSIR!
AND, CORPORAL... ONE MORE THING
SIR...?
THE GERMANS DO NOT TAKE SPIES ALIVE!

OH, ROCCO, YOU WERE RIGHT
YOU WERE SO RIGHT.

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

BY KURT BUSIEK

Hello again. Indy's in the thick of it now — no safari with Roosevelt, no border skirmish with Pancho Villa — this is Verdun, one of the bloodiest battles of World War I. But what was World War I? Sure, we can tell from this story that the Germans and the French are fighting, and the Belgians and the British are in on it too, but why? How did it start?

When World War I happened, it was unprecedented. From 1914 to 1918, almost all of Europe and much of the rest of the world were involved in the war. It practically killed off a generation — 65 million men were mobilized into the various armies that fought the war, and of that number, almost 9 million were killed and more than 21 million were wounded. It also saw the destruction of three great empires — the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Tsarist Russia — and crippled Germany for a generation. Until World War II came along and proved that a war of that size could happen more than once, World War I was simply called "The Great War" or "The War to End All Wars." So it must have been important, right? They must have been fighting about something really big, to make it worth that much death and destruction.

Not really. World War I happened mostly because nobody thought it would. Everyone *knew* a war that big was impossible.

* * * * *

What they didn't know — and what caused World War I, more than anything else — was that the world had changed, and nobody had noticed yet. There hadn't been a major war in Europe for a century, and the smaller wars had been short and decisive. For the most part, what mattered in those earlier wars was speed and numbers — the country that got the most men in the field fastest overwhelmed its enemy, got a demonstrably superior position, and then peace terms were worked out in the favor of the winner. Wars simply couldn't go on for a long time — if they did, both countries would have the time to raise large armies, and the resultant battles would kill too many people, hurting the winner as much as it did the loser.

In 1914, most of Europe thought that if a new war came, it would follow the same pattern. But a number of things had happened to break that pattern, most notably a huge surge in population. At the beginning of the 19th century, there were only 50 million people in Europe; by 1914, there were over 300 million. A lot more people could die before it became too hard to raise an army. Another big change was the rise of nationalism. We take it for granted today that people have a strong love of their country and will defend it fiercely when threatened, but in 1914 that was a fairly new development. Earlier, people tended to identify more strongly with their local area, their social class, or their religion than with their country — and of those, only religious conflict could inspire a truly major war. But as the population grew, the middle and lower classes took more and more pride in belonging to one nation or another — and that led to intense rivalries between nations, not simply on a diplomatic level, but on a personal level as well.

The technology of war had changed, too. In the past, the need for speed had made the essence of war the *attack* — the guy who could hit hardest and fastest won the fight. But the invention of barbed wire made it possible to slow down an attack, the machine gun allowed defending forces to cut an attacking drive to ribbons before it could reach its goal, and advances in artillery spread battles out over a wider area, making them harder to coordinate and making individual triumphs less

important. As a result, the defending force now had the advantage — and the European generals didn't know it.

The final factor that put Europe in position for an explosion was the widespread system of alliances between countries. The idea behind them was deterrence — that one country wouldn't attack another country if they knew it would mean that country's allies would attack them right back — but the way it worked out, the alliances simply guaranteed that a small war, even one between weaker countries, would turn into a big war. And that's exactly what happened.

* * * * *

Here's how Europe looked before the war began. The major powers were France, Germany, Russia, Britain, and Austria-Hungary. Western Europe looked largely like it does today, but— Eastern Europe was very different. Austria-Hungary was much larger than those two countries are today — controlling large chunks of Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Ukraine, Romania, Croatia, and Slovenia. Germany and Russia also had large sections of Poland under their control. Turkey, or the Ottoman Empire as it was known then, had until recently been a major power in the Balkans, but its power was diminishing, and as it withdrew from the continent, Austria-Hungary and Russia eyed the small Balkan nations greedily.

And here's how the alliances stacked up: Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy were allied, and France and Russia were allied. Russia also had an alliance with Serbia in the Balkans, and Britain, which for a long time had held aloof from alliances, had recently made a naval alliance with Japan. Also, Britain, France, and Germany had entered a treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium — mostly to keep any one of the three from seizing its valuable seaports.

The stage was set for war. Now, when most people think of World War I today, they think of France and Germany, or Verdun, the battle of the Marne, Belleau Wood — but at the start, the war had nothing to do with Germany or France at all. It started in tiny Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Balkans.

* * * * *

In 1908, Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina, which angered the Serbians, since the people who lived there were mostly ethnic Serbs and Serbia wanted the territory for itself. So when the Archduke Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, visited Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 1914, he was assassinated by Serbian terrorists. Actually, it wasn't as simple as that — the first assassin that tried to kill him tossed a bomb at the car Ferdinand and his wife, the Countess Sophie, were in, but missed. Four other would-be assassins made their attempts during the short drive, and all of them failed. After hearing a speech of welcome by Sarajevo's mayor, Ferdinand and his wife set off to visit a nearby hospital, but their chauffeur got lost. He ended up stopping the car to turn around right in front of Gavrilo Princip, one of the failed assassins from the earlier drive. Princip saw his chance and took it, shooting and killing both Ferdinand and Sophie, before attempting to end his own life with a cyanide pill (which didn't work).

This deadly comedy of errors, despite the death of Ferdinand, might not have been enough to start a war at all. Ferdinand was not very popular in Austria-Hungary — he was too concerned with the rights of downtrodden minorities (like Serbs, for example), and the ruling class didn't have much use for him. Many Austrians thought the Serbs had done them a favor by killing him. But Austria-Hungary viewed Serbia as a pesky nuisance on its borders, and was looking for an excuse to get rid of it.

What happened next was like a very large and deadly game of dominoes. Austria-Hungary threatened war against Serbia, confident that with Germany as their ally, the other major power, Russia, would back down rather than help defend Serbia. But Russia had already backed down once, in 1908, over the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and could not do so again without appearing to be a pushover.

And in the heyday of nationalism, nobody wanted to be thought a pushover.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, Russia ordered mobilization of its army on July 30, and Germany honored its agreements with Austria-Hungary by declaring war on Russia on August 1. But the Germans knew that war with Russia meant war with France as well, because of *that* alliance. And they also knew that France could mobilize its army faster than Russia could. So, thinking that speed was what mattered the most and that the war would be over quickly, Germany decided that the best course would be to fight France first and win there in a couple of weeks, then sweep into Russia before the Russian mobilization was complete and beat them too. Germany declared war on France on August 3 and immediately launched an attack westward. Britain might have been kept out of the war, at least for a while, since nobody she was allied with was fighting, but Germany chose to attack France by going through Belgium. Once Germany had invaded Belgium, Britain honored her treaty, declaring war on Germany on August 4.

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All of the major powers of Europe were now in the war, and the drawn-out fighting that caused millions of deaths and proved to the world that war in the 20th century was a far different thing from war in the 19th had begun. But it was more than a European war right away, since Germany, England, and France all had far-flung empires. Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and British possessions in Africa and India were all embroiled in the war once Britain was involved, as were German and French possessions the world over.

The war spread to other nations as well, mostly due to greed for more territory. Japan jumped in right away — the alliance with Britain didn't require her to take part in the war, but the Japanese wanted to snap up Germany's Pacific possessions before Australia and New Zealand could get to them. The Ottoman Empire, eager to win back some of its lost land and prestige, had made a secret alliance with Germany before the war, and was fighting Russia and Britain before the end of August 1914. The Portugese, longtime allies of Britain, voted to declare war on Germany in 1914, but a short-lived pro-German military coup prevented the actual declaration, and once the coup was overthrown, it took until March 1916 for Portugal to actually join the war.

A number of other nations joined because either the Allies (as Britain, France, and Russia were known) or the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary) promised them some of their enemies' land when (if) they won the war. For instance, Italy, despite the alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary, coveted territory held by Austria. The Allies promised it to Italy and she entered the war against her former friends in May 1915. Bulgaria was wooed and won by the Central Powers, Romania and Greece by the Allies.

But though Portugese soldiers fought bravely in France and the Italians kept Austrian forces tied up in the south, none of these latecomers were truly major players in the war (with the possible exception of the Ottoman Empire). That role was reserved for the United States.

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When the war started, both sides courted the United States, which remained firmly neutral. On the one hand, the US had strong ties with France that dated back to the American Revolution, and sharing a language naturally gave Americans sympathy for Britain. But large numbers of Germans had immigrated to the US in the 19th century and still had strong sympathies for their mother country. For that matter, Irish-Americans who had fled harsh treatment at the hands of the English were in no hurry to support Britain, and there was the small matter of a couple of wars with Britain, in 1776 and 1812. So the US wanted to stay out of it — in fact, Woodrow Wilson won re-election to the presidency in 1916 with the slogan, "He Kept Us out of War."

Three major factors changed the US position. The first was a growing sympathy for the Allies, brought about both by Allied propaganda painting the

Germans as barbaric monsters who attacked nuns and bayoneted babies, and by simple economic benefit — supplying the Allies with war materials was so profitable to the US that it would be a financial disaster for America for the Allies to lose.

The second factor was Germany's submarine warfare against commercial shipping, which dovetailed with Allied propaganda. While it had long been a part of war to attack and sink merchant ships supplying the enemy, it was also part of the tradition to give fair warning before any attack, so the merchant sailor could abandon ship, and to pick up the survivors afterward. Submarine warfare made this impossible, so America was treated to regular news of noncombatant sailors drowning in icy waters due to German attacks. Anger over this reached its peak in May 1915, when the British liner *Lusitania* was sunk off the coast of Ireland, killing 1200 passengers and crew, including 128 Americans. But while the *Lusitania* incident did much to cement anti-German feeling in the US, it took almost two years for the US to enter the war, during which the US continually wrangled with Germany over the question of submarine warfare.

The third and final factor propelling America into the war was the Zimmerman telegram. Arthur Zimmerman, the German Foreign Minister, sent a telegram to the German Ambassador to Mexico, instructing him to promise German support in a war between Mexico and the US. The British intercepted the telegram and, when they thought American hostility toward Germany was peaking, released it. The telegram made specific reference to Mexico taking Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona from the US, and possibly getting the Japanese to switch sides by promising them parts of California. This was enough to swing the until-then neutral West into an anti-German stance. Shortly thereafter, several American ships were sunk by the Germans, and on April 6, 1917, Congress voted, at Wilson's request, to declare war.

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That's how the war started. How it was won (or lost, depending on your perspective) is a matter for another time, and quite probably for another *Young Indiana Jones* adventure. But the effect of the war overall wasn't that different from what you see in this issue at Verdun. In the long run, even the winners lost. All those deaths, all that destruction, all the money and natural resources wasted by the war when they could have been used for peaceful purposes was a severe blow to every country that fought. The British, French, and Italian empires survived the war, but the concessions they had to grant in order to get their subjects' support put the parent countries in a much weaker position and hastened those mighty empires' ultimate downfall. And it's very possible that without World War I, the Russian Revolution and the atrocities of the Stalinist regime that followed would never have happened. In short, if any of Europe's great powers had been able to foresee what this war was going to be like, they would have done virtually anything rather than fight it. But even those few men who understood the power of artillery and the machine gun, who knew what trench warfare could do, didn't foresee World War I. They knew it was too expensive — that a war like that was an impossibility.

But the "impossible" happens, sometimes for very little reason, and nearly nine million people died proving it. That's something to think about the next time you hear that something — nuclear war, environmental disaster, the Bill of Rights being dismantled, whatever — "just can't happen."

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SO THAT'S THE BIG PICTURE, WHAT'S THE LITTLE ONE? What'll happen to Indy in No Man's Land? What'll happen to Remy? Will the assault at Verdun succeed or fail? For that last question, you could cheat and look it up in your history books, but for the rest you'll have to check back here next month in *THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES #6!*